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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 29, 2009

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VAN ZANT PROVIDES CHOICE TO FAMILIES PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

TALLAHASSEE – Today the Florida House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation by State Representative Charles Van Zant (R-Palatka) and Senator Stephen Wise (R-Jacksonville) which gives families maximum choice for the use of their Prepaid College Plan dollars.

“When signed into law, this bill will enable students using their college prepaid plan to maximize where they can go to school, to every state and in multiple venues - even to locations in U.S. Provinces,” said Representative Van Zant. “This bill takes the present opportunity for students and makes it enormous.”

Currently, Prepaid College Plans may only be used at the 11 institutions in the State University System or 28 institutions in the Florida College System. House Bill 315 and Senate Bill 606 permit the use of a Prepaid College Plan at any learning center recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

The State of Florida offers the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Plan to assist families in planning and saving for a college education. The Prepaid College Plan contracts lock in many of the costs associated with postsecondary attendance at the time the contracts are purchased. These costs depend on the type of plan purchased and may include registration fees, local fees, the tuition differential fee and dormitory expenses.

The bill will become effective July 1, 2009 if signed by Governor Crist.

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